

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

December 17, 2012

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Important Dates

December 21	Ethnic Fest
December 21	Rocket into Reading Begins
Dec 24 - Jan 4	Winter Break

Dear Families,

Our Ethnic Fest celebration is this Friday, December 21st, from 1:30pm-2:30pm in the multi-purpose room. If you have not done so already, please email Donna Myers (donnatmyers@yahoo.com) as soon as possible with what you are planning to contribute to the celebration. We have asked students to make (or buy) a batch of bite-sized servings of a favorite food from their ethnic background (a simple family favorite, or perhaps the recipe they use in their culture project this week). Please prepare/send enough to serve 25 people. Send the dish to school that day with your child, or deliver to the multi-purpose room by 1:15 p.m. The dish must be ready to serve as there is no way to heat at school; nor can we refrigerate items. Be sure to include a label that gives the name and nationality of the dish. We encourage you to label any dishes that need to go home with your child with your name.

Important: Label homemade food with all ingredients, or include list for store-bought items. Please NO NUTS due to allergies.

Rocket into Reading begins at the end of this week. Please encourage your child to read over the break, and fill out those rockets and stars! Students can turn in the rockets and stars they accumulate over the break when we return in January.

Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!

Parents: you will get to see some of your student's achievements in art, music, physical education, library, and Spanish! Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the event so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend.

We need parent volunteers to help with leading classes from location to location and with taping the event. Please email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org if you can help!

Art - [Dale Chihuly](#) is an American glass blower with colorful glass sculptures on display all over the world. We have looked carefully at his artwork and watched several videos on [glass blowing](#). Of course, we cannot blow glass, but we have found an exciting alternative. The results will be on display at Specials Night on 1/14.

Music - [Check out the website!](#) **Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!** Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the night so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend. We will be working on the pieces for the specials night over the next few weeks.

Spanish - The fifth graders will continue work this week for Specials Night. We will be working on a song in collaboration with music class. Spanish blog: <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - Students have been researching countries for a special cross-curricular project that will culminate this week in the ethnic fest. Each student has been assigned to a group that is researching an aspect of a country (its history, society and culture, lifestyle, and people & places. Research was conducted using databases through the Oak Park Public Library (CultureGrams and online encyclopedias). The final product, a cookbook with information and recipes from each country, will be on display during the specials night. For more on library happenings, please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>). Feel free to email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

This week, we will finish reading the book Rules by Cynthia Lord as a class. Using the details they've collected, students will write an essay on the themes they see present in the story. There will also be a quiz on Friday on chapters 18 - 22 of Rules. The past few weeks we have also been studying some Latin root words and word families. The students will be taking a quiz on what they've learned on Wednesday.

Language Arts

This week in language arts we will teach lessons on keyboarding/computer skills, as well as give students time to practice their typing in class.

Math

The common denominator assessments will be returned by Wednesday, along with a self-assessment. Please review the unit test with your child, sign the self-assessment and have your child return it to school. Your child will receive 5 Guilders for prompt return of the signed self-assessment.

This week we continue to work on the holiday meal project. Students will be doubling recipes and determining nutritional information for various holiday meals. The holiday meal project is a part of the Culture project students are working on in Social Studies.

Science

This week in science we will continue our investigation of the scientific method. We will integrate lessons from our Everyday Math curriculum to reinforce graphing skills. Throughout the Variables unit, we will be conducting labs almost every week. We reminded students that if they miss Science class due to Band, Orchestra or Chorus, it is their responsibility to get lab data from a group member.

Social Studies

Students took a quiz over the New England colonies last Friday. These quizzes will be returned to students by Thursday. President research papers will be returned after Winter Break.

This week, Social Studies class time will be devoted to completing the research portion of the Culture Project. Students will be researching an aspect of an assigned culture, and use the information to summarize what they learned about the culture. Ultimately groups will create a cookbook highlighting important facts about the country and the recipes they analyzed. These cookbooks will be on display in the library during Specials Night.

When we return from Winter Break, we will continue our study of Colonial America, by spending a week on the middle colonies and southern colonies. Students will be assigned an in-class colony project as well.

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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